

# Rhode Island Renewable Energy Fund

Presentation to
Green Power Marketing Conference
October 4, 2004

### Overview



- Fund background
- Market environment
- Programs to grow a green power market in RI

### Objectives



- Fund created by state legislature in 1997
- > \$2.5 million annually
- Purpose:
  - Maximize benefit/cost of renewable energy
  - Create sustainable markets
- Benefits to RI
  - Environmental/health
  - Energy security/diversity
  - Economic development

#### **Business Environment**



- Small Market
- Lack of significant renewable resources (wind, biomass) on shore, land use issues, deep water
- NEPOOL GIS/attribute trading
- Regional RPS' driving project development
- Aggregation and education efforts in MA and CT create critical mass and spillover into RI
- National Grid/Narragansett GreenUp (April 2004)

#### Results



- 1290 GreenUp signups between April 2004 and September 30, 2004, one of the more successful green market campaigns reported
- Up-tick in measured consumer awareness reported between January 2004 and September 2004
- Plus -
  - RPS (late Spring 2004)
  - Aggregate Back Up Rate exemption of 3 MW (September 2004)

### Green Power Market Building



- Customer Education and Aggregation
- Small Customer (Residential) Incentive
- Large Customer Incentive
- Supply Incentive

## **Education & Aggregation**



- RFP in 2002 funded several education projects which are ongoing:
  - Clean Energy States Alliance (CESA) advertising
  - Consumer Education and Public Awareness
  - C&I Aggregation
  - People's Power and Light Residential Aggregation

#### **Public Education**



- In 2004, implemented by Smartpower to support GreenUp and increase awareness
  - CESA-developed media advertising (radio, television, print)
  - Outreach events and affinity organizations
  - www.CleanEnergyRI.com



















why now?

your options

calculate costs

buy now!

FAQ

contact us



CleanEnergyRI TV & Radio Ads Rhode Island: You don't have to tear down walls or put in new wiring to make this improvement to your home or small business. Tap into clean energy - from solar, wind, water and other clean sources - that's produced now in our region. You don't even have to leave your current utility.

It's as easy as 1, 2, 3 ...

- First, examine all the clean energy products offered in Rhode Island.
  - Next, use our calculator to determine your monthly cost.
- Then, sign up to start receiving your energy the CleanEnergy way!

For information on installing solar or other clean energy technologies at your home, see the Rhode Island Renewable Energy Fund.

Clean energy. It's real. It's here. It's working.



Ince last spring, over 1250 Rhode Islanders have chosen the latest in home improvement by purchasing electricity from such clean, renewable energy resources as wind, solar, biomass and hydro through Namagansett Electric's GreenUp" program. In the process they've also improved the health and quality of life of our communities, by evolding 11 million pounds of carbon dicoide and over 36,000 pounds of nitrogen oxides and sulfur dicoide. That's the equivalent of taking 960 cars off the road or planting 150,000 trees.

That makes the CleanEnergyRil.com Campaign – The Rhode Island Renewable Energy Fund and SmartPower's effort to promote the use of clean, renewable energy – one of the fastest growing clean energy switching programs in the United States.

We congratulate each and every one of Rhode Island's new clean energy customers for doing their part to support America's energy independence. We also appliand Narragansett Electric and all the clean energy suppliers for making clean power available to the people of Rhode Island.

It's great to have good neighbors, but isn't time to become one? Go to www.CleanEnergyRi.com to learn more and sign up today. Or, you can enroll using the simple form below. For just a few dollars more each month, it's easy to get the latest in home improvement and make Rhode latend a clean energy leader for America.

#### Clean Energy. It's real. It's here. It's working.

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CLEAR ENERGY LET'S HAVE MORE

Providence Journal Full Page Ad September 2004

#### **Public Education**



- Messaging:
  - Term "Clean Energy" preferred to "Renewable" or "Green"
  - Environmental message is well understood
  - The images and facts that make Clean
     Energy seem powerful, real, "closer than
     you think" resonate the most

## Aggregation



- Rhode Island RE Customer Aggregation Program" (Think Energy) - C & I
  - First year information and support to enable businesses to acquire renewable energy/systems
  - Second year Group purchase of clean energy (long term hedge contract)
- People's Power & Light Residential
  - Start-up capital for non-profit, grass-roots aggregation

### **Small Customer Incentives**



- Goal: Develop a sustainable "green power" market
  - Reduce customer acquisition & startup costs, build critical mass
  - Attract customers to premium green power products
- \* \$1.36 m available could support up to 15,000 green power customers
- Structure
  - Rebates for registered retail suppliers signing customers to qualifying green power offerings
  - Early entry incentive: Up to \$125/customer for first
     6,000; \$75 thereafter
- Approximately \$150,000 earned incentives to date

### **Small Customer Incentives**



- Eligibility:
  - Registered retail electricity suppliers serving RI residential and small commercial customers; must apply for program
  - GreenUp Products
    - Green-e TRC certified, or
    - At least 25% (based on total customer usage) new renewable projects in NE

### Large Customer Incentives



- Goal: Stimulate large customer green power purchases
- Flexible Structure
  - rebates, purchase incentives pay for performance preferred
  - Buy-down but not eliminate green power cost premium
- Eligibility:
  - Large electricity customers in RI (or multi-site small GS customers), and/or
  - Retail electricity suppliers registered in RI
- Approximately \$1 million in commitments to date

### Large Customer Incentives



#### Criteria:

- Cost effectiveness
- Higher percentages of renewable generation, maximize new renewable generation (post restructuring)
- Sustainability: Encourage long-term commitment to buy green power
- Likelihood of success
- Maximize leverage (including PR to stimulate other purchased)
- Administrative ease

### Renewable Supply RFP



- Goal: New renewable generation projects to serve RI
- Structured as production incentive:
  - Incentive stream, up to a cap of \$30/MWh for 5 years
  - Attributes sold to RI customers as a renewable electricity product
- Eligibility:
  - Generators, middlemen, or RI customers (for on-site)
  - Wind, small-scale hydro (no new dams), sustainably managed biomass, landfill methane, solar, fuel cells
  - Generation within N.E., but R.I. Preferred
- ▶ 1 Commitment Wind Project \$600,000 RECs Purchase over 5 years
- Program being redesigned

### Program Design Issues



- What? How Much?
- Rapidly evolving markets require flexibility in program design
  - TRC's
  - GreenUp
  - RPS
- Sustaining demand post- incentives
- Ongoing need for outreach/education



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